

KERATAN AKHBAR

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MUKA SURAT : 2

RM107b 'Mini Budget' passed

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Dewan Rakyat yesterday passed the Consolidated Fund (Expenditure On Account) Bill 2022, that provides for RM107.72 billion in civil service expenditure for a part of 2023.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is also finance minister, said this renders temporary parliamentary approval for the government to spend a portion of the total estimated expenses during the months prior to the retabling and passing of the Supply Bill for 2023.

"The estimated expenses under the Bill, among others, include payments of emoluments for civil servants, utilities, scholarships, social welfare aid as well as education and health services.

"In addition, ongoing development projects must continue and scheduled contract payments must be met," he said when tabling the special allocation, or "Mini Budget", in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Anwar said the Bill is in line with paragraph (a) of Article 102 of the Federal Constitution and similar Bills were tabled previously, the last

➤ Move allows temporary parliamentary approval for civil service expenditure pending retabling of Supply Bill

of which was on Dec 20, 1999.

According to the Bill distributed by Parliament, the largest sum would be allocated for the Treasury General Services, amounting to RM28.12 billion, followed by the Education Ministry with RM24.97 billion and the Health Ministry, with RM17.05 billion.

Other provisions include the Prime Minister's Department (RM2.17 billion), Home Affairs Ministry (RM6.9 billion), Higher Education Ministry (RM5.85 billion), Defence Ministry (RM5.71 billion), Agriculture and Food Security Ministry (RM2.38 billion), Treasury (RM2.01 billion) and the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry (RM1.59 billion).

In addition, RM1.81 billion would be set aside for the Rural and Regional Development Ministry,

RM1.09 billion for contributions to statutory funds, RM83.36 million for Parliament, RM495.72 million for the Communication and Digital Ministry and RM235.75 million for the Public Service Department.

The Dewan Rakyat also passed a provision of RM55.95 billion to be withdrawn from the Development Fund with respect to the financial year 2023 to meet the government's urgent expenditures.

Additionally, the Dewan Rakyat approved a motion to transfer RM35.04 billion, comprising the balance of the proceeds from the Malaysian Government Investment Issue (MGII) amounting to RM31.83 billion, and from the Malaysian Islamic Treasury Bills amounting to RM3.21 billion for the year 2022, to the Development Fund in accordance with Section 3(1) of the Government Funding

Act 1983 (Act 275).

The Dewan Rakyat also approved another motion to transfer RM16.2 billion in accordance with Section 3(1) of Act 275 and Section 4(2) of the Temporary Measures for Government Funding (Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) Act 2020.

The amount is the balance of proceeds of MGII for 2022 to be transferred to the Covid-19 Fund.

Both motions were tabled by Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan, Bernama reported.

"Both transfers are intended to fund parts of the development expenditure provisions for 2022 as passed by Parliament during the tabling of Budget 2022 last year.

"The Development Fund is a government trust fund established in accordance with the Development Funds Act 1966 to make provisions for development projects," Anwar said.

Meanwhile, the transfer of proceeds to the Covid-19 Fund is intended for related expenditures for the year 2022.

The session was adjourned to a date to be announced later.